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XII.—*On Birds recently observed or obtained in the Island of Negros, Philippines.* By ARTHUR, Viscount WALDEN, P.Z.S., and EDGAR LEOPOLD LAYARD, F.Z.S.

(Plates IV.—VI.)

THE Philippine Islands supplied the materials for the earliest memoir on exotic birds that has come down to us, written by the Moravian Jesuit, Camel, in 1703 (Phil. Trans. vol. xxiii.). From examples collected in the Philippine archipelago by Poivre and by Sonnerat, descriptions of many of the oldest species in our books were taken. Still, even at the present time, our knowledge of Philippine ornithology continues to be of the most elementary character, only 193 species being noted (v. Martens, J. für O. 1866) as known to inhabit the large and diversified area contained within the limits of the archipelago—an area which occupies an estimated surface of 110,000 square miles of dry land. When we consider the favourable geographical position of these islands (closely connected with Borneo on the S.W., with Celebes on the S., and the Moluccas on the S.S.W., and lying in the direct track of the migrants from north-eastern and eastern Asia), the varied physical characters of the islands themselves, their mountainous regions

covered with vast unexplored forests, their broad tracts of open country devoid of all cultivation, the few ornithologists who have visited the archipelago (not exceeding eight in number) since the time of Sonnerat (1771), and that only three or four points were touched by them (Manilla, Antigua, Zamboanga), we may well believe that many new forms remained to be discovered, and that many more known species to be recognized, by the first enterprising traveller who determines to explore thoroughly these almost unknown and attractive islands. We know of no part of the world that would more amply repay the zoological traveller. The climate is good, the country easy of access, and teems with animal life*.

In the mean time any additional contribution to our knowledge of the Philippine avifauna, however limited, is of exceptional value ; and we therefore propose to give an account of small collection of birds and of birds' eggs recently obtained in the island of Negros, by Mr. L. C. Layard. Many of his letters to his father, Mr. Edgar L. Layard, contain notes relating to the natural history of this island ; and we propose to publish, as they were written, all those observations which bear on its ornithology, feeling sure that they will be found to contain matters of interest to the readers of 'The Ibis.'

The island of Negros is situated between latitude $9^{\circ} 3'$ and $10^{\circ} 58'$ N., and longitude $122^{\circ} 28'$ and $123^{\circ} 29'$ E. Its length may be roughly stated to be about 130 miles, its average breadth 25 miles, and its area 3780 square miles. It is separated from the Philippine islands of Panay on the N.W., and of Cebu or Zebu on the S.E., by narrow channels. Mr. L. Layard says in one of his letters, "I have a fine view from my window, the sea on one side, with Guimaras (a small island) and Panay in the distance on the other ; fields of cane, enclosed by two rivers, and bordered by banana and cocoanut trees, stretch up until they reach the forest and the mountains." A range of mountains with lofty peaks runs north and south through the island,

* The only real danger which appears to attend travelling in some parts of the Philippines is caused by the piratical Malays. But, from a passage in one of Mr. L. Layard's letters, it would seem that Englishmen with proper introductions to the chiefs would run but little risk if *unaccompanied by Spaniards*.

the centre of which is little known even now. It appears to be inhabited by a small race of Negroes, called Negritos, from whom the island derives its name.

Mr. L. Layard writes—"Judging from my remembrance of Table Mountain, I should say that the range behind the Hacienda and the Koun Loun volcano, must be nearly 5000 feet high. Their tops are very rugged and covered with trees; and they look very grand after a shower, when long streaks of cloud are caught halfway up them, and detached patches are scattered along their slopes, clinging to the trees."

These forests abound with cabinet-woods of great beauty and of the finest quality. The trees attain a vast height; "most of them have huge buttresses on each side, and then an immense trunk, rising, some of them, for upwards of 100 feet without a branch, and as round and as straight as an arrow. It is useless to fire at anything in the heads of these giants, unless with buck-shot. I was a long while under a flock of the large Hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax?*); but it was of no use to fire at them. Most of the trees were covered with parasitic orchids, creepers, and climbing ferns of all descriptions; and the whole forest was alive with gay Parrots, Hornbills, gaudy red Woodpeckers, and butterflies of every hue. Several sorts of Pigeon were flying about; and we heard noises that the guide said were caused by a peculiar monkey, but we did not see any of them. There were lots of small dark-blue Swallows flitting about under the trees in the partially cleared places, which I had not seen elsewhere. On the outside the underwood had been cut down, and in its stead were the bright green leaves of the banana (hemp) plant standing in rows."

The Parrots to which he alludes he afterwards obtained, and describes as "a large green Parrot, with a blue patch above the root of the tail, and a large red beak, out of which I took good care to keep my fingers." This is probably either *Tanygnathus muelleri* (Temm.) or else a new species. *T. muelleri* has been doubtfully stated to occur in the southern Philippines (*conf.* O. Finsch, Pap. ii. p. 360).

From the forest-clad mountains numerous rivers, abounding in fish and crocodiles, descend to the sea, which equally swarms

with sharks. Up one of these rivers Mr. L. Layard proceeded on one excursion. "We went about 40 miles down the coast in the little steamer to a place called Ponte Vedra. Next morning early we got a 'dug-out' and went up the river. It was very lovely, with huge trees drooping down to the water's edge on each side, but very lonely, as there were hardly any birds and no butterflies, only a few of the red and blue and blue and white Kinghunters (*Halcyon gularis* and *H. chloris*), and some Kingfishers about, a Dove or two flying overhead, and half a dozen Anhingas (*Plotus melanogaster*) in the water. We went out shooting in the afternoon; but it was cold and rainy, and we did not see half we ought to have seen in the river-bush. I shot two large white Cockatoos and some Doves, also a lizard, 3 feet long, with a sort of large fin on the root of his tail (*Hydrosaurus* ?)*. The Cockatoos have bright red eyes, red feathers under the tail, and yellowish under the wing."

No specimens of this Parrot were preserved; but were it not for the expression "large" we should not hesitate to identify the bird with *Cacatua hamaturopygia* (Müll.)=*Ps. philippinarum*, Gm. No other known species agrees with the above description, and no other Cockatoo has been described as an inhabitant of the Philippines. But the exact habitat of the true *C. philippinarum* itself has never been accurately determined; for that bird does not appear to have been seen wild by any trustworthy traveller. It is therefore to be regretted that we are unable to identify with absolute certainty the bird referred to by Mr. L. Layard. It is, however, probable that the term "large" was not used comparatively, and that in the Island of Negros we have at length discovered one point in the archipelago where *C. philippinarum* is indigenous.

In another of his notes Mr. L. Layard alludes to his bathing in the river, and mentions that "the Bee-eaters have a beautiful scarlet patch on the head; they frequent a bamboo clump, and sit on the lateral branches while I swim beneath; so I get a good view of them." No examples were secured, and we are unable to identify the bird. Mr. L. Layard, from African experience,

* [This may be *H. nuchalis*, described by Dr. Günther in P. Z. S. for February last, which we have some reason to believe may have come from Negros.—ED.]

is well acquainted with *Merops*; and so there can be little doubt that he is correct in the genus. The species may possibly be a form of *Nyctiornis*.

The Kinghunters (*Halcyon gularis* and *H. chloris*) frequented the house and buildings of the sugar-factory. "Three of the latter keep about the old 'camarine' and the bamboo staging of the chimney; and I hope to get their eggs."

"A Wagtail, with a breast as yellow as a 'Seysie's'" (*Crithagra sulphurata*), was also common—probably *Budytes viridis*. "A little 'Sun-bird,' with back of head and shoulders of a brilliant scarlet (probably *Dicaeum cruentatum*), frequented some shrubs near, as did also a Flycatcher with a dull red throat and a white stripe along the eye." This last may be *Muscicapa mugimaki*, Temm. & Schl., a species which migrates from Siberia to Malacca (*Erythrostera erythaca*, Blyth).

The eggs of *Halcyon chloris* were not obtained; but the eggs of a bird, the description of which agrees with *Calornis payanensis* (Scop.) = *cantor*, Gm., were secured. Mr. L. Layard states that this species breeds in the holes of the bamboo staging erected round the engine-house chimney, to catch the bricks in case of its being shaken down by an earthquake, and thus avert the serious accidents that might result from its fall.

The eggs are of various shades of verditer, blotched somewhat sparsely, but thickest at the obtuse end, with irregularly shaped spots and blotches of dark brown, madder, and faint purple. Axis 13^{mm}, diam. 9½^{mm}.

Mr. L. Layard says that these birds fly in small flocks, and that their habits reminded him of the Cape *Juida morio*. The irides he describes as red.

Besides the little blue Swallow already noted, Mr. L. Layard mentions "a small dark Swift" (a *Collocalia*?, one of the products of the island being edible birds' nests), and a Swallow, the common one of the country, probably *Hypurolepis javanica* (Sparrm.), of which he sends four eggs. Unfortunately no description of this bird or of its nest is given. The eggs are of a dirty pink ground, profusely sprinkled with dark madder-coloured spots, which are notably coarsest and closest set at the obtuse end, with a faint indication of some light purple ones in

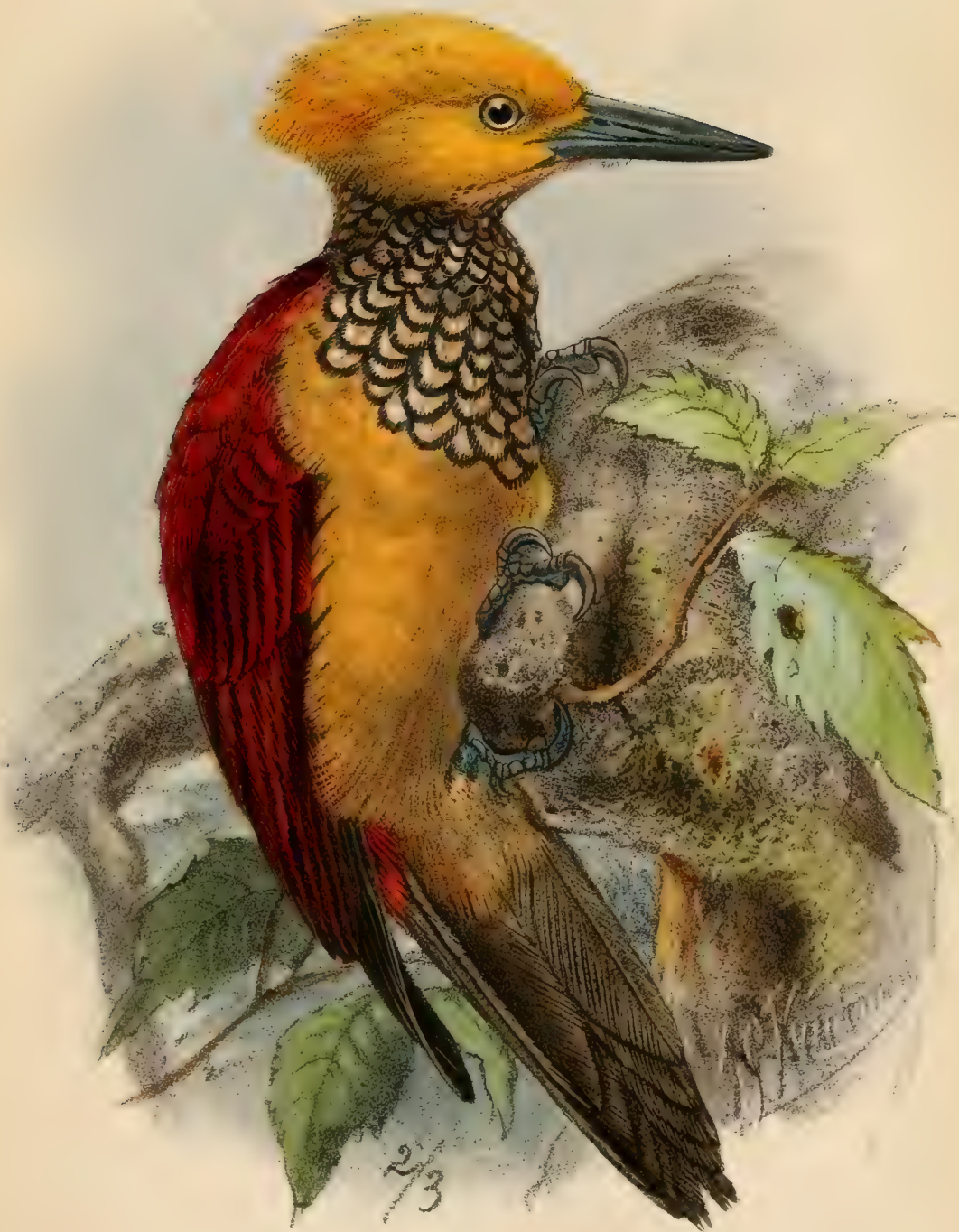
the form of a ring. Axis 9''' , diam. 6''' ; but they vary in shape, some being longer and narrower.

On the 2nd February an excursion was made to the Island of Guimaras, situated in the channel which separates Panay from Negros. Besides two large Hornbills, twelve examples of a large fruit-eating Pigeon, apparently an undescribed species, *Ianthænas griseogularis*, nob., were obtained.

The tameness of some of the Falconidæ is illustrated in the following passage:—"We are awfully bothered with locusts; but it is a curious sight, the men all assembled and beating old tins to drive them away, the great red-backed Kites (*Haliastur indus*?) swooping down and catching them in their feet and eating them in the air, and lots of smaller Hawks, Flycatchers, and Swallows harrying the swarm; and then the sound of their rushing wings!!" "There is one fine Hawk about the size of *Circus maurus*, white breast, black head and throat, and white wings tipped with black (*Circus melanoleucus*?), and another beautiful little Hawk very much like the one we shot with Capt. B. on the Flats near the windmills (this was *Hypotriorchis subbuteo*). He sat in a tree eating his locust, and would not fly, though I twice struck the branch beneath him with a stone. I have not yet got my gun out of the clutches of the Spanish Custom-House, or he would have come to grief." (This is probably *Falco severus*.)

The want of his gun prevented Mr. L. Layard obtaining many of the birds observed. The Spanish Customs' authorities detained his gun (a double-barrel 12-bore Westley Richards) for many months on the plea that it was a "pea"-rifle! It appears it is necessary to get a license from the Spanish authorities to live in the islands, and another to possess and use a gun.

"Last week coming out of the 'camarine,' I saw a fine Eagle hovering just over my head, and its mate higher up. How I longed for my gun! It was a whity brown, with a large white tail, and as big as any of our Cape Eagles. It is evidently a rare species, as I have only seen these two. One was shot by a Middy some months ago, and the foot is still here; it is large." He saw the species again, "sailing along the coast, and nearly got a shot at one" (*Cuncuma leucogaster*?).



J.G. Keulemans del.

M & N. Hazart imp.

CHRYSOCOLAPTES XANTHOCEPHALUS.

The rainy season commences on the western coasts of the Philippines at the end of April, and continues to September, the eastern coasts being dry until October, when they, in their turn, become subject to heavy rains. Mr. L. Layard thus alludes to the ushering in of the May monsoon:—"The monsoon broke on the 25th of April, and Snipe and Ducks are beginning to come in with the rains; I have shot two Curlews also. Last week I was riding round, and a pair of Ducks in a buffalo wallow let me ride up to them within ten yards. I galloped home, loaded the one barrel of L.'s rusty old gun, that had a nipple in, and returned. They were still there, and I took one as they rose. They are fine birds, as large as a 'Geelbec' (*Anas flavirostris*), pearly-grey bodies, reddish heads, and blue-striped wings—first-rate eating! There is also another Duck in the island, smaller, and more red about it. They are called here 'Gatek.' I bagged five of them at Samag last week." The small species is probably *Dendrocygna vagans*; the larger we are unable, for want of an example, to identify. The description given above does not agree with any one of the only four species of Ducks known to inhabit the Philippines.

The following list contains the names of the species represented by examples sent to England. An account of the eggs collected is added.

CHRYSOCOLAPTES XANTHOCEPHALUS, sp. nov. (Plate IV.)

Entire head, including the normal generic crest, chin, cheeks, and ear-coverts, and the whole under surface of body, except the throat and breast, pure golden yellow, brightest on crest. A very faint mesial chin-line, and two equally faint lines following the rami of the mandible, brown. Throat and breast covered with scale-like golden-fulvous feathers, each being broadly and distinctly bordered with black. Back, uropygium, wing-coverts, and secondary quills carmine. Upper tail-coverts and rectrices deep brown. Primary and spurious quills dark brown, the outer edges of the spurious quills, and the outer edges of the basal half of the primaries being golden olive.

First primary unspotted, but with white indicated at the inner edge of web near the insertion. Two white spots on inner

edge of second quill, somewhat ill-defined and barely separated. Third quill with two well-marked and separate white spots. Fourth quill like third, but with an additional faintly marked and smaller spot. Fifth and sixth quills, with three clear white spots. Three spots on the inner webs of the remaining quills, both primary and secondary. Under shoulder-coverts mottled dirty golden and brown, with carmine tips. "Bill and feet horn colour; eyes white (?)."

Wing 6 inches; tail 4; bill from forehead 1.5, from gape 1.75; outer hind toe 1.12; outer front toe 0.87; tarsus 1.12.

Described from a single individual obtained in the Island of Negros, and stated on the label to be a female.

The carmine dorsal colouring of this species closely resembles that of *Ch. carlotta** (Malh.), *Ch. hematribon* (Wagler), and *Brachypternus erythronotus* (Vieill.) *apud* Malh.

The male bird may prove to possess a red head, as in the rest of the genus.

XANTHOLÆMA ROSEA (Cuv.): R. A. 1817, i. p. 428, *ex* Levaillant.

Le Barbu rose gorge, Levaillant, Ois. Parad. ii. p. 75, pl. 33, "Java."

"♂, iris brown; feet coral; bill black; stomach, beetles. Island of Negros."

The bill in this example is somewhat larger than in Javan individuals; otherwise no material difference can be detected between specimens from the two localities.

EURYSTOMUS ORIENTALIS (Linn.): S. N. i. p. 159, no. 4 (1766), *ex* Brisson.

Galgulus indicus, Briss. Ornith. ii., p. 75. no. 4, pl. 7. f. 2. "India orientalis."

"♂, iris brown; bill and feet red. Shot in the forest, Island of Negros, March."

Agrees in every respect with examples from Menado and Malacca.

* A true and typical *Chrysocolaptes*, although classed as a *Brachypternus* in the Hand-List, no. 8748.

ENTOMOBIA GULARIS (Kuhl) : Sharpe, Mon. Alced. pl. 60, p. 165.

Three specimens collected, two males and one female, in full plumage. They do not differ from Luzon examples in Lord Walden's collection, nor is any sexual distinction to be detected.

"a. ♂, iris light brown, bill brick-red, feet coral; stomach, worms; shot in a ploughed field.

"b. ♂, stomach, small fish; shot on river-bank.

"c. ♀, iris light brown, bill brick-red, feet coral; stomach contained large grubs."

SAUROPATIS CHLORIS (Bodd.) : Sharpe, Mon. Alced. pl. 87, p. 229.

Alcedo collaris, Scopoli, Fl. et Faun. Insubr. ii. p. 90. no. 56 (1786), *ex* Sonnerat.

"♂, iris brown; feet dark brown; bill black; stomach, small crab. March, Island of Negros."

PETROCOSSYPHUS SOLITARIUS (Müll.) : Suppl. p. 142, no. 46, *ex* Pl. Enl. 636.

"♂, iris brown; bill and feet almost black; stomach, seeds; frequents old buildings, rare. Negros, March.

BRODERIPUS ACORRHYNCHUS (Vigors) : P. Z. S. 1830-31, p. 97, "Manilla:" Gray and Mitchell, Genera, pl. 58.

"♀, bill pink; feet black; stomach, seeds. Island of Negros."

Mr. Gray (H.-l. no. 4305) has suppressed Vigors's title for the Philippine Oriole and adopted *chinensis*, Linn. In this rectification we are unable to concur:—first, because the Linnean type was brought from Cochin China by Poivre and given to Réaumur (Brisson, Orn. ii. p. 328); secondly, because Brisson, who described from Poivre's example, distinctly states (*l. c.*), "*alarum remiges sunt nigræ: ex minoribus tamen aliquot exiguâ maculâ flavicante terminantur.*"

B. acrorhynchus and *B. frontalis* (Wall.) appear to be the only two known species in which the yellow wing-spot is wanting.

COPSYCHUS MINDANENSIS (Gm.): S. N. i. p. 823. no. 76, *ex* Montbeillard.

Le Merle de Mindanao, Montb. Hist. Nat. iii. p. 387 ; Pl. Enl. 627. f. 1.

“ Iris brown ; bill and feet black ; stomach, insects. Island of Negros.”

The single specimen sent has the under wing-coverts entirely black as in *C. pluto* (Temm.). This at once distinguishes the Negros bird from the Dhayals of India, Ceylon, Burma, Malayan peninsula, and Java. Unfortunately the Negros example possesses only eight perfect rectrices ; but these are entirely black. The stump of a ninth, however, is present ; and it, as far as it remains, is also black. It may be inferred, therefore, that at least ten of the rectrices of the Negros *Copsychus* are black, and it may be possible that all the twelve are black. Without other Philippine examples to compare with, it cannot be decided whether this Negros individual agrees with the Mindanao species. But for the present it is proposed to regard the two as identical.

The Malayan and Javan *Copsychus* hitherto referred to *Turdus mindanensis*, Gm., differs from this Negros individual in having six white outer rectrices, and in having the under wing-coverts white centred with black. These characteristics have been verified by an examination of a considerable series of Malayan-peninsular and Javan specimens. As is well known, Indian, Cingalese, and Burmese examples have the under wing-coverts pure white, and possess eight white rectrices.

The oldest title for the Malayan and Javan *Copsychus* appears to be *Lanius musicus*, Raffles, Tr. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 307 (1822), given to the Sumatran species, which in all probability will be found to agree with the Malayan and Javan.

In many individuals of *C. saularis* the fourth pair of rectrices, and in *C. musicus* the third pair, are more or less brown or black.

HYPOTHYMIS AZUREA (Bodd.).

Gobemouche bleu des Philippines, Montb. Hist. Nat. iv. 534.

Muscicapa cærulea, Gm., Kittlitz, Kupf. p. 7, t. 9. f. 1.

Muscicapa occipitalis, Vigors, P. Z. S. 1830–31, p. 97, “ Manilla.”



W. B. S. 23

W. B. S. 23

IBIS MIRABILIS

An example sent does not differ from Indian and Ceylon individuals. By Montbeillard's title it appears that the type came from the Philippines.

DICRURUS MIRABILIS, sp. n. (Plate V.)

Lower breast, abdominal region, flanks, and under tail-coverts pure white. Remainder of plumage black, with glossy green reflections. Tail but slightly forked. Bill black. Wing 5·5; tail, outer rectrix 5·37, middle pair 5; bill from forehead 1·18, from gape 1·37; hallux 0·50; tarsus 0·87.

From a single example, sex not noted, Island of Negros. "Eyes black (?), feet and legs black. High in the mountain forests. Stomach, insects. Usually in pairs; scarce, only saw them one day." The colour here given of the irides requires confirmation.

This species belongs to the group of which *D. balicassius* (Linn.) is the type, and the members of which are principally Papuan. In the shallow bifurcation of the tail it comes nearest to *D. balicassius*. No other species of this genus as restricted displays any white in the plumage, beyond the usual white markings of the under wing-coverts, found more or less to prevail throughout the *Dicruridae*. Its analogue in *Buchanga* is *B. fngah* (Linn.).

GYMNOPS CALVUS (Linn.) : S. N. i. p. 164. no. 2 (1766), *ex* Brisson.

Merula calva, Brisson, Orn. ii. p. 280. no. 36, pl. xxvi. f. 2. "Philippine islands" (1760) *deser. orig.*

Le Goulin, Montb. Hist. Nat. iii. p. 420.

Gracula calva, Gm. S. N. i. p. 396, no. 2.

Le Goulin gris, Cuv. R. A. 1829, i. p. 381.

Gracula calva, Linn. *ap.* Kittlitz, Kupf. p. 9, pl. xiii. f. 2.

Gymnops griseus, Cuv. *ap.* Meyen, N. Act. Acad. C. L.-C. Nat. Cur. vol. xvi., Suppl. 1. p. 78.

Gymnops tricolor (Müller), *ap.* G. R. Gray, Hand-list, no. 6275, *nec* Müller.

One specimen sent. "♀, iris brown; bill and feet black; stomach, seeds. Shot on a cocoa-nut tree, Island of Negros."

Montbeillard (*l.c.*) has described apparently two totally distinct

species of bald Grakles from the Philippines under his title of *Le Goulin*. One, brought from the Philippines by Sonnerat, is identical with Brisson's *Merula calva*; the other, which is the species figured in the 'Planches Enluminées,' no. 200, has never since been recognized. This last is stated by Montbeillard to be smaller, to have the under plumage yellowish brown, and the feet, legs, and the anterior portion of the bill, *yellow*. The figure also (Pl. Enl. 200) certainly represents a bird widely differing from *Gracula calva* auct. Montbeillard (*l. c.*) further remarks that the bald-headed bird brought from the Philippines by Sonnerat, although much resembling the bird figured, yet differs in its size and its plumage. The smaller bird (Pl. Enl. 200), he surmises, may be the young. Kittlitz (*l. c.*) states that the sexes are alike in plumage, but the female is smaller. No title has been founded on Pl. Enl. 200. Nor has Cuvier anywhere published the name *griseus* usually attributed to him. Mr. G. R. Gray (*l. c.*) has superseded the appellation *calvus*, Gm., by that of *tricolor*, Müller, and quotes Pl. Enl. 200. There seems, however, to be no authority for discarding the time-honoured name of *calvus*, even if it had only originated with Gmelin and not with Linnæus. Müller's *Corvus tricolor* was founded on Pl. Enl. 521, = *Corvus* (*Gymnocephalus*) *calvus*, Gm., not *Gracula calva*, Gm. Müller has not bestowed any name on the bird figured in Pl. Enl. 200, nor on *Merula calva*, Brisson.

PHAPITRERON LEUCOTIS (Temm.): Pl. Col. 189.

"♀, iris brown; bill black; feet coral; stomach, small chilies. Island of Negros."

IANTHÆNAS GRISEOGULARIS, sp. nov. (Plate VI.)

Upper surface of head from bill to nape grey, brilliantly tinted with light purple. Chin, cheeks, ear-coverts, and throat pale grey, faintly tinged on sides of head with vinous. Nape and neck green, but changing in some lights to ashy tinted with bright purple. Breast beautiful, uniform, bright purple, changing in some lights to greenish ashy, as in shot silk. Abdomen, flanks, thigh-coverts, ventral region and under tail-coverts dark ashy, many of the feathers being edged with the purple colour of the breast. Back and uropygium ashy brown shot with the



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IANTHÆNAS GRISEOCULARIS.

bright purple of the breast and changing to greenish ashy. Scapulars and wing-coverts brown, with distinct purple margins. Quills, rectrices, and upper tail-coverts ashy-brown, paler on under surface. In the example sent only twelve rectrices are to be detected. The colouring of the plumage is so iridescent that it is difficult to describe accurately.

Wing 8·50; tail 6·75; bill from forehead 0·81, from gape 1·13; hallux 0·62; tarsus 1·12. Feet red; bill red at base and yellow at the tip. Shot on the Island of Guimaras.

BUTORIDES JAVANICA (Horsf.): Tr. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 190. "Java."

Island of Negros. Example sent is smaller in all its dimensions than individuals from Ceylon and North West India. Wing 6·50, bill from forehead 2·38.

GLAREOLA ORIENTALIS, Leach, Tr. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 132, pl. xiii. figs. 1 and 2. "Java" (May 2, 1820).

"♀, iris brown; bill and legs black; stomach, small worms. March."

In full adult summer plumage.

SQUATAROLA HELVETICA (Linn.): S. N. i. p. 250, no. 12.

"♀, iris brown; bill black, legs green; stomach, shrimps and sea-worms. March."

CHARADRIUS FULVUS, Gm. S. N. i. 687. no. 18.

"♀, iris brown; bill black, feet green; stomach, shrimps and sea-worms. March."

In winter plumage, showing no trace of a change to the breeding-dress.

The following notes relate to the eggs in Mr. Layard's collection.

RHIPIDURA NIGRITORQUIS, Vigors?

The nest and eggs of a Fly-catcher are sent, which is described as being "brown above, with a white throat and breast with a darker collar between. A white bar extends across the end of a broad tail, which it flirts about, constantly opening and shutting it. Two weeks ago [writing February 20th] whilst swimming

in the river, I caught sight of its nest in a prickly bamboo-clump. It was built in a fork almost over the water, and is exactly like that of *Tchitreia cristata*, of the Cape of Good Hope. If I had not found that at the Cape, I should never have remarked this. Last Sunday there were two eggs in it exactly like a Fiscal's (*Lanius collaris*), only smaller of course. I cut out and brought home nest and eggs."

The nest sent home is a very beautiful structure, composed of fine fibres, roots, and hairs, most artistically constructed on a lateral bamboo shoot, at the junction of two other smaller branchlets. It is very closely woven, and so densely covered on the outside with cobwebs as to be almost impervious to light. It has no lining, and is perfectly round and cup-shaped inside, having a diameter of $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, with a depth of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch; thickness of walls $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. The base is prolonged into a funnel-shaped cone, the pipe being composed of coarse bents of dry grass loosely hanging together. Its resemblance to the nests fabricated by all the *Tchitreæ* is apparent.

The eggs are of a pale creamy-grey colour, marked (in the form of a ring) at the obtuse end with close-set, often coalescing, small, faint purplish and brown spots; some of these are faintly visible over the rest of the shell. Axis 9"', diam. $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".

MUNIA JAGORI, Cab.?

"Eggs of a little Amadavat, with red body and black head." These are probably the eggs of the little *Munia jagori*, which accords with this description. They are pure white. Axis 7"', diam. 5".

CORYDALLA MALAYANA (Eyton)?

"Two sets of Larks' eggs." These are unaccompanied by any description; they may be those of *C. malayana*, or of an undescribed species. They evidently belong to the same bird, though two are somewhat darker than the other three. They are of a pale-grey ground, profusely speckled (chiefly at the obtuse end, and in some in the form of a ring) with minute brown and purplish specks. Axis 10"', diam. 8".

EXCALFACTORIA CHINENSIS (Linn.)?

A single "egg of a Quail" we suppose to belong to this

species. Mr. L. Layard describes the bird as not uncommon. The egg is of a darkish brown generally, but irregularly speckled and blotched with very dark madder-brown specks and blotches of various sizes. Axis 12'', diam. 9''.

TURNIX OCELLATA (Scop.) ?

A second Quail's egg is sent, which from our knowledge of eggs of birds of this genus, we fully believe to belong to this species.

It is of a dirty pale-brown ground, profusely spotted with black and dark-brown speckles, chiefly at the obtuse end. The small end is rather acutely pointed. Axis 12'', diam. 8''.

XIII.—*Descriptions of Six new Species of Indian Birds.*

By ALLAN HUME, C.B.

1. CHRYSOMITRIS THIBETANA.

Dimensions.—Length 4''·75, wing 2''·70, tail 1''·9, tarsus 0''·4, bill at front 0''·35.

Description (only female obtained).—Legs and feet brown; bill brown, fleshy on lower mandible. *Plumage*: Head, neck, back, and scapulars dingy olive-green, each feather with a dark brown central stripe; a long supercilium, continued backwards round the ear-coverts, and an ill-defined patch on the nape greenish yellow; ear-coverts brownish olive; lower parts pale yellow, albescent on the middle of the abdomen and towards the vent; the sides and flanks with dusky central streaks; lower tail-coverts pale yellow, each feather with a linear lanceolate blackish brown central streak; rump and upper tail-coverts greenish yellow, with traces of central dusky streaks; quills and tail blackish brown, edged exteriorly with greenish yellow; the primaries very narrowly margined at the tips, and the tail-feathers on the inner webs with greyish white.

This is a true Siskin, agreeing perfectly in shape of bill with the European *C. spinus*, which our Indian *C. spinoides* does not.

The specimen described was obtained by L. Mandelli, Esq., on the borders of Sikkim and Thibet. It appears to me to be